

Amendments to Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Claim 1 has been currently amended. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claims 3 - 51 27 are newly added with this amendment.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An articulated electrode assembly, said assembly comprising:

a set of paddles, at least one paddle comprising:

a support member;

at least one coupling member configured for [separable]
detachable coupling to another paddle, said at least one
coupling member spanning between said paddles;

a set of electrical contacts carried by said support member;
and

an electrical lead wire at least partially carried by said
support member and coupled to at least one electrical
contact,

wherein at least one paddle is sized and configured for implantation

at a neuroanatomical location within a patient.

Claim 2 (Cancelled):

Claim 3. (NEW) The articulated electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein
the support member has at least one layer is configured with
a set of recesses for supporting the at least one electrical

contact, and at least one support member layer is substantially flexible,
said at least one layer having at least one contact aperture formed therein, the at least one aperture facilitating electrical conductivity.

Claim 4. (NEW) The articulated electrode assembly of claim 3, wherein at least one support member layer is configured to have a contoured shape.

Claim 5. (NEW): The articulated electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein a subset of the electrical contacts comprises a single formed structure having a first tissue contact side.

Claim 6. (NEW) The articulated electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein at least one support member has a major axis and a minor axis of different dimensions.

Claim 7. (NEW) The articulated electrode assembly of claim 6, wherein the minor axis has at least one recessed waist portion.

Claim 8. (NEW) The articulated electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein each of the support members is comprised of an upper and lower layer of material,
and wherein the set of stimulation paddles comprises at least two paddles,
and wherein each of the upper and lower layers has a conduit formed therein, and

wherein each of the conduits matingly oppose one another, forming a passageway to carry a portion of the electrical lead wire.

Claim 9. (NEW) The articulated electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein the support member of at least one of the paddles is of a different dimension than the support member of another paddle.

Claim 10. (NEW) The articulated electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein the set of electrical contacts comprises at least two electrical contacts having different dimensions.

Claim 11. (NEW) The articulated electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein said support member is configured to allow at least partial exposure of said set of electrical contacts for electrical communication at a neuroanatomical site.

Claim 12. (NEW) The articulated electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein at least one coupling member is substantially smaller in volume than at least one paddle.

Claim 13. (NEW) An articulated electrode assembly, said assembly comprising:
a set of paddles, at least one paddle comprising:
a support member;
at least one coupling member configured for separable decoupling from another paddle; and
a set of electrical contacts, carried by the support member; and
a set of electrical leads comprising at least one electrical lead wire,

each electrical lead wire being coupled to an electrical contact, and

each electrical lead wire being at least partially carried by at least one support member.

Claim 14. (NEW) The articulated electrode assembly of claim 13,
wherein at least two of the electrical lead wires have a different length.

Claim 15. (NEW) The articulated electrode assembly of claim 13, wherein
at least one electrical lead has at least one visible indicator corresponding to its length.

Claim 16. (NEW) The articulated electrode assembly of claim 13, wherein
the at least one coupling member includes at least one attachment aperture.

Claim 17. (NEW) The articulated electrode assembly of claim 13, wherein
the coupling member is configured to couple the set of paddles in a fixed spatial relationship, and
wherein the coupling member includes at least one detachment portion that facilitates detachment of the first and second paddles from each other.

Claim 18. (NEW) The articulated electrode assembly of claim 17, wherein
the coupling member has a separation mechanism configured for separable coupling to another paddle, and
wherein at least one of said coupling members is physically decouplable with the separation mechanism.

Claim 19. (NEW) The articulated electrode assembly of claim 18, wherein

the separation mechanism comprises at least one perforation.

Claim 20. (NEW) The articulated electrode assembly of claim 18, wherein said coupling member comprises a contiguous strip.

Claim 21. (NEW) A method for implanting a neural electrode assembly within a patient, said method comprising:
determining a set of target sites;
providing access to said target sites;
physically decoupling a set of coupling members spanning between a set of paddles, said paddles having a set of electrical contacts; and
placing each of said paddles relative to the target sites.

Claim 22. (NEW) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
spatially adjusting an orientation of said paddles; and
providing electrical communication with said target site via said set of electrical contacts.

Claim 23. (NEW) The method of claim 21, wherein said physically decoupling step comprises one from the group of detaching and dividing said coupling members.

Claim 24. (NEW) The method of claim 21, wherein said placing step comprises placing said paddles at a set of neuroanatomical sites.

Claim 25. (NEW) The method of claim 24, wherein at least one neuroanatomical site comprises one from the group of an epidural and a subdural site.

Claim 26. (NEW) The method of claim 21, wherein

said providing step comprises providing surgical access to an implantation target site, and
said providing surgical access step comprises performing one from the group of an incision, a craniotomy, and a burr hole procedure.

Claim 27. (NEW) An implantable electrical stimulation system,
said system comprising:

- (a) an articulated electrode assembly, said assembly comprising:
 - a set of paddles, at least one paddle comprising:
 - a support member;
 - at least one coupling member configured for detachable coupling to another paddle;
 - a set of electrical contacts carried by said support member;
 - and
- (b) a pulse generating device; and
- (c) a set of lead wires at least partially carried by the support member and coupling at least one electrical contact to said pulse generating device,
- (d) wherein said articulated electrode assembly, pulse generating device and set of lead wires are dimensioned and configured for implantation within a patient and comprised of biocompatible materials.